



Warwick Academy

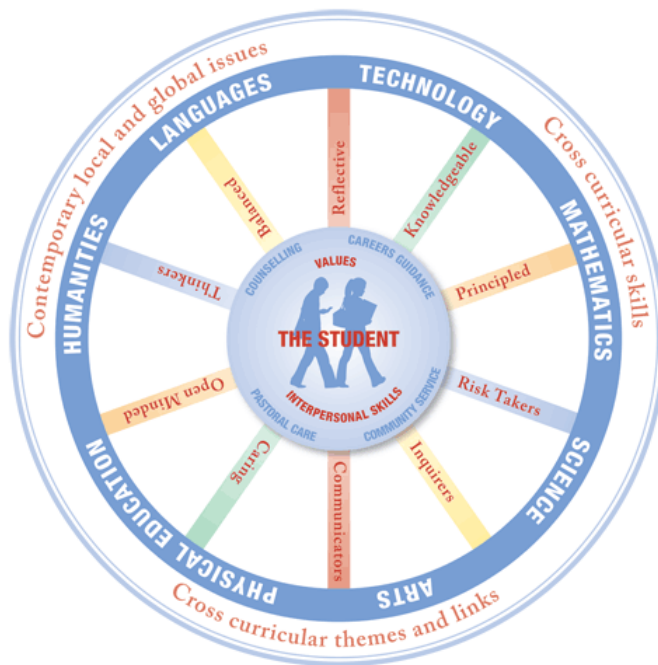
'so much more than a place to learn'

Head Lice Policy

MISSION STATEMENT

Building on centuries of excellence, we provide an international educational environment designed for our diverse student body. Our innovative curriculum is delivered with a commitment to personalised pastoral care and enhanced by a dynamic co-curricular programme. We strive to create a culture of collaboration so that our students can become lifelong learners, global thinkers and successful leaders.

CURRICULUM MODEL



NOTES

Dated: Jan 2018

To be reviewed: Sept 2024

Staff involved: PMT/SMT

Head lice infection is not primarily a problem of schools, but of the wider community. It is the parents' responsibility to manage the detection and treatment of head lice, Warwick Academy will work in a co-operative and collaborative manner to assist all families to manage head lice effectively.

Procedures, General Prevention and Health Education Information for staff and parents is attached to this policy (Appendix 1)

Warwick Academy does not routinely check for headlice. The spread of head lice can be minimized with routine inspection for live head lice and nits by all parents (Appendix 2) and full treatment of those children infested.

Parents and guardians are responsible for:

- Knowing head lice signs and symptoms
- Routinely checking their child's head for head lice once a week. Friday is the ideal day as it allows the weekend for treatment if necessary
- Telling their child's school, close friends, activity leaders (dance etc), that their child has head lice
- Ensuring that full, proper treatment has been completed before the pupil returns to school (Appendix 3)

Should a parent inform the school that a child has been found to have head lice the school will:

- Send information to parents to help them treat their child
- Inform parents of other children in the same class/year group that a case has been detected and also send them information on how to check their child's hair and treat any infection found.

All staff at Warwick Academy respect confidentiality and remain sensitive to individual circumstances, we advocate head lice infection is talked about openly and not concealed.

Managing Head Lice – Information for Parents

Head lice are tiny insects about the size of a sesame seed. They move from one person to another by head-to-head (hair-to-hair) contact and are active travelers. They cannot jump to another person's head, they can only crawl. Head lice lay eggs which hatch after 7-10 days. It takes about 10 days for a recently hatched louse (called a nymph) to grow into an adult and start to lay eggs.

A mature female lays **eggs called nits**. These nits are **extremely tiny**. They are yellowish or greyish white tear-drop shaped, about 0.8 mm long. The nits are attached to the hair shaft (close to the scalp) with a very strong cement bond. Nits are deposited mainly at night at a rate of 6 every 24 hours.



Nits



Head louse

Children who get head lice may feel embarrassed or ashamed, but they should not. Anyone can get head lice. It has nothing to do with being dirty or clean and lice do not spread disease or illness.

Advice to parents

How to find Head Lice (see Appendix 1)

- Severe itching is the most common sign of head lice
- Look for head lice and tiny white or grey coloured eggs or remnants of eggs (nits). Nits look like tiny waterdrops and are stuck on the hair. They are hard to remove. Whilst nits might signal a live infestation, they don't necessarily mean that live head lice are present; the eggs may have already hatched
- Check your own head and heads of everyone who lives in the home
- Advise school and activity leaders (dance, judo etc) that your child has head lice, also tell the parents of your child's friends to check their child for head lice

How to treat Head Lice (see Appendix 2)

- Information about special medicated treatment is available from the pharmacist or doctor. The school nurse can also help you with this. **Use only products that say they are 'ovicidal'**, which means they will kill most of the nits
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions carefully
- After treating your child's hair, make sure there are no live head lice. If you still find head lice that are moving, go back to the pharmacist or doctor for help

- If you find nits you need to remove these using a 'nit comb' or by pulling them off with your fingernails

After the first treatment parents should:

- Check the child's head to make sure the treatment was successful. It was successful if no live lice are found
- Speak to a pharmacist about another chemical treatment if you still find live lice (as this means the chemical you used has not worked- lice can develop immunity to some treatments)
- Remove any remaining nits using a nit comb or by pulling them out individually with fingers
- Clean the home
- Continue to check the child's head every day for 10 days. This is important as eggs may continue to hatch

Do a second treatment 7 to 10 days after the first successful treatment. Chemical treatments do not completely kill eggs. So this second treatment will kill lice that hatch after the first treatment.

After the second treatment parents should:

- Visually inspect the child's head to make sure the treatment was successful
- Remove any remaining nits using a nit comb or by pulling them out individually with fingers
- Clean the home
- Inspect the child's head every two days for 10 consecutive days
- After 10 days of checking without detecting any more live head lice, return to checking the child's head once a week for nits and lice

Cleaning of home

Proper home cleaning during a lice infestation is very important. It is possible for head lice to live temporarily on items such as bedding, couches, hair accessories, car seats, toys and clothing. Fortunately, head lice can only survive 24-48 hours off of the head and are relatively easy to remove from the home. Below are home cleaning instructions which can be performed after each hair treatment:

- Bedding: Sheets, blankets, and pillow cases, should be put in the dryer for 30-40 minutes on high heat. (washing optional for mild infestation)
- Couch: Vacuum and cover with sheet or blanket for 2-3 days. (sitting on sheets is safe)

- Floors and Carpet: Vacuum floors and discourage others from laying on floors for 2-3 days
- Hair Accessories: Submerge in water with bleach solution or freeze (4+ hours) or leave untouched for 2-3 days
- Clothing: All clothing worn in last 2-3 days should be put in dryer for 30-40 minutes on high, or left unused for 2-3 days.
- Car Seats: Vacuum well and visually inspect
- Toys: Isolate toys for 2-3 days (plastic bags help)

A simple, easy way to clean your home is to grab all items that could potentially have lice on them and put them in a garage or closet for 3 days. Washing everything is not necessary if you can do this.

How to Prevent Head Lice

Knowledge is one of the most important steps to both prevent the spread of headlice and to treat an infestation. Parents and school staff play key roles in preventing the spread of head lice. It is important that parents regularly check their child's head and encourage their child to follow the advice below:

- Do not share personal items, such as combs, helmets, hats and scarves
- Keep hats and scarves in a coat sleeve or pocket instead of in a spot with other hats and scarves
- Tie long hair back at all times

Head Lice and Absences from School

Should head lice be noticed at school- parents will be contacted immediately and will be asked to pick their child up from school. In the case of nits, parents will be informed but will not need to collect their child, however they will need to follow instructions to remove the nits from their child's head before returning to school. In the case of live lice, children can be returned to school once a full treatment has been carried out and bedding etc has been treated or shut away (to avoid re-infestation) at home. Should live lice be identified in the same child on more than two occasions within a short period of time, the Head of Primary/Secondary will call the parents to discuss what is being done to eradicate the head lice and to offer further guidance.

Appendix 2

Head Lice Detection Map

FAST FACTS ABOUT HEAD LICE

If your child has been in contact with a confirmed case of head lice, check your child's head for lice/nits every 2 days for 10 days.

- Head lice have been a common problem for thousands of years.
- Head lice do not cause illness or disease
- Head lice have 6 strong claws that hold tightly to a hair shaft
- Head lice can only survive on human heads, not pets or other animals
- Head lice or nits are not likely to survive off the head for more than 3 days
- Head lice do not fly or jump, they crawl from one person to another by close head-to-head/hair to hair contact
- Anyone can get head lice

Check your child's head once a week for live lice or nits using one of the following detection methods

Visual

1. Have your child sit on a chair/ stool under a bright source of light (sunlight works best).
2. Look very closely through your child's hair, especially in the areas behind the ears, nape of the neck and crown of the head.

Comb Out

1. Have your child sit on a chair/ stool under a bright source of light.
2. Part your child's hair into sections and comb through each section.
3. Inspect each section for nits and live lice.

Conditioner Comb Through

1. Apply white conditioner to dry hair, covering root to tip.
2. Comb conditioner through hair with an ordinary comb and divide into sections.
3. Use a lice comb to comb through every section of hair.
4. Wipe the lice comb onto a white paper towel each time and look for evidence of lice/nits

No nits or live lice found

Check your child's head once a week

Live lice or nits found in your child's hair

TREAT right away – refer to Effective Treatment of Head Lice sheet

Notify school and child's friends

REMEMBER

- If live head lice are found start using the 'Effective Treatment of Head Lice' resource sheet
- Check every family member's head if you find live head lice. Treat only if live lice are found.
- Always inform the school if live lice or nits are found

Appendix 3

Effective Treatment of Head Lice

Check your child's head for live lice and nits (Use head Lice Detection Map)

